

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 02351 071941Z
ACTION ARA-14

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DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM WAS SENT FROM ICA/PANAMA ACTION
USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE DATED 07 APRIL 1978
BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY -- ALL MORNINGS APRIL 7 FRONT-PAGE WIRE SERVICE
REPORTS OF PANAMA'S LETTER TO UN SECY. GEN. MARCH 28 COM-
PLAINING ABOUT DECONCINI RESERVATION. PRO-GOP MATUTINO ALSO
CARRIES PAGE ONE EFE ITEM, "U.S. REMAINS SILENT IN FACE OF
DENUNCIATION OF RESERVATIONS.

2. RADIO/TV NEWS APRIL 6 GAVE EXTENSIVE MENTION TO COMMUNIQUE
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ISSUED BY LIBERAL PARTY AND LETTER SENT BY PARTY TO AMB.
JORDEN, BUT ONLY MATUTINO APRIL 7 PUBLISHED TEXTS. COMMUNIQUE
CITES SUPPORT BY LIBERALS FOR TREATY DURING PLEBISCITE, AND
AND DISCUSSIONS WITH VISITING SENATORS, BUT CONCLUDES, "THE
FACT IS THAT DURING THE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE NEUTRALITY TREATY,
THEY HAVE INTRODUCED TO THE TREATY AMENDMENTS, RESERVATIONS,
UNDERSTANDINGS AND NEW MATERIAL WHICH CHANGE THE AGREED UPON

CLAUSES... FOR THESE REASONS THE LIBERAL PARTY... MANIFESTS ITS REJECTION OF (THESE), BECAUSE SOME OF THEM NEGATE CLAUSES ALREADY AGREED UPON AND OTHERS DAMAGE THE DIGNITY OF OUR NATION."

3. IN A LONGER LETTER TO AMB. JORDE, ALSO PUBLISHED IN MATUTINO, LIBERALS COVER SAME POINTS, AND ACCUSE SENATE OF IGNORING "NEGATIVE AND DISTRUSTFUL EFFECT WHICH U.S. REFLECTS IN NATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA AND IN THE WORLD IN GENERAL." LETTER CITES "LOYAL AND UPSTANDING CONDUCT" OF PANAMANIAN SINCE CANAL WAS OPENED, AND INSISTS THAT "THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM PANAMA'S REJECTION OF THE MODIFICATIONS, RESERVATIONS, ETC. TO THE PACTS BY THE U.S. SENATE, WOULD BE YOUR (PLURAL) RESPONSIBILITY... IT IS LOGICAL TO FORESEE IN THE FUTURE THAT RESENTMENT, FRUSTRATION AND EVEN DECEIT WOULD PUT US FARTHER APART. ONLY GOD KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE; THEREFORE IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE SENATE OF YOUR COUNTRY TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF SAVING THESE TREATIES. IF THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN, IT IS UNQUESTIONABLE THAT UPON YOUR NATION WILL FALL THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HAVING LOST AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO JUSTICE TO A LOYAL FRIENDLY NATION, TO GIVE AN UNMISTAKABLE SIGN OF YOUR ANTI-COLONIALISM, TO PROJECT AN IMAGE WITH WILL PERMIT YOU TO PRESSURE OTHER NATIONS (ABOUT)... HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO MAINTAIN HIGH YOUR IMAGE OF A GREAT WORLD DEMOCRACY."

4. MATUTINO ALSO PUBLISHES COLUMN, PUBLIC CONSCIENCE, BY MIGUEL UNCLASSIFIED

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ANGEL MORENO, WHO DENOUNCES SENATE AND PRES. CARTER BITTERLY FOR "CHANGES" IN TREATY TEXTS. "THERE REMAINS NO CHOICE BUT TOTAL REJECTION OF THE NEUTRALITY AND CANAL TREATIES," SAYS MORENO. "WITH THEIR AMENDMENTS, RESERVATIONS, CONDITIONS AND UNDERSTANDINGS, THE TREATIES BECOME A JOKE, A FARCE, AND ONE MORE LIE THAT COLONIALISM ADDS TO THE LONG LIST OF HUMILIATIONS AGAINST PANAMA."

5. MORENO BLASTS PRES. CARTER, BY SAYING, "I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW IT IS POSSIBLE FOR PRES. CARTER TO ANNOUNCE THAT ONCE THE SENATE FINISHES ITS DISCUSSION OF THE TREATIES, HE WILL TRAVEL TO PANAMA... CARTER MUST BE VERY NAIVE, VERY BLIND OR VERY FALSE, AND I WOULD NOT ADD, OR VERY IMPUDENT, NOT TO SEE THAT WHAT THE SENATE HAS DONE IS SIMPLY AND CLEARLY AN IRRITATING AND SHAMEFUL MASCARADE. PRES. CARTER HAS NOTHING TO DO IN PANAMA. LET HIM STAY UP THERE WITH HIS PACKAGE OF TREATIES SO HE CAN DIGEST THEM ALONG WITH THE SENATORS AT THE CELEBRATION WHICH WHICH HE ANNOUNCED, BUT IN NO WAY SHOULD HE THINK THAT PANAMANIAN ARE IMBECILES."

6. MORENO CONTINUES THAT THOSE WHO THINK TORRIJOS WILL ACCEPT TREATIES IN NAME OF PANAMANIAN PEOPLE ARE "TOTALLY AND

ABSOLUTELY MISTAKEN." TORRIJOS REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE, MORENO SAYS, AND IT WILL BE THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES ONE DAY OR THE OTHER, WHO GIVE THE FINAL VERDICT. "BESIDES, THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT, AFTER HAVING RASIED HIMSELF IN A NATIONALIST POSTURE SO OFTEN AND HAVING LAUNDED WITH SUCH FORCE ON THE SKIES OF THE WORLD OUR SOVEREIGN DESIRES... NEVER WOULD BE RADY TO STAIN HIS NAME, THAT OF HIS CHILDREN AND HIS FAMILY, IN THE ANTI-PATRIOTIC INSULT (OF ACCEPTING THE TREATIES).

7. MORENO CONCLUDES, "IN THE FACE OF THE SENATE'S TREATIES THE DIGNIFIED AND DECOROUS ATTITUDE IS OF REPUDIATION, TOTAL REJECTION. I DON'T EVEN THINK THAT THEY SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO A NEW PLEBISCITE... WE ARE NOT GOING TO DECLARE WAR ON THE U.S., NOR SAY THAT WE WILL TAKE THE ZONE, BECAUSE THIS IS UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT NECESSARY FOR THE WORLD TO KNOW, ONCE MORE, THAT THE PANAMANIAN HAVE ALAYS BEEN IN THE FIGHT." ITEM UNQUOTE JORDEN

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